



National Marine Fisheries Service

Notice of Intent To Prepare an Environmental Impact Statement

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NOAA Fisheries Office of the Protected Resources will be holding four scoping meetings in January, 2005. The meetings are intended to gather public input on the criteria addressed in the Acoustic Environmental Impact Statement (EIS). This EIS will analyze the potential impacts of applying noise exposure criteria in guidelines to determine what constitutes “take” of a marine mammal under the Marine Mammal Protection Act and Endangered Species Act.

In particular, the EIS will identify potential impacts to human activities that occur in oceanic waters such as dredging, fisheries, shipping, geological exploration, military operations, construction, and acoustic and oceanographic research. The areas of interest for evaluation of environmental and socioeconomic effects will be U.S. and international waters.

Status – The scoping meetings will be held:

- January 18 (5 p.m. – 8 p.m.) at the Hilton Fisherman’s Wharf in San Francisco, CA.
- January 20 (5 p.m. – 8 p.m.) at NOAA’s Sand Point office in Seattle, WA.
- January 25 (5 p.m. – 8 p.m.) at the New England Aquarium in Boston, MA.
- January 27 (5 p.m. – 8 p.m.) at NOAA Fisheries in Silver Spring, MD.

The *Federal Register* notice published January 11, 2005 (70 FR 1871).

For additional information:

<http://www.nmfs.noaa.gov/pr/acoustics/>

To respond to NOAA Fisheries’ EIS visit NOAA Fisheries Web page:

AcousticEIS.Comments@noaa.gov